

WARM-UP

- What is your preferred way to get to know someone more? Do you meet up with them or send them a message? Recall an instance explaining this.
- What is one thing you're always excited to do? Would you call it your passion? Why?
- What is one partnership or collaboration you've participated in? How did it turn out?

WORD *"And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."* **JOHN 17:3**

". . . As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."
JOHN 20:21

(Read also **GENESIS 1:26-28; HEBREWS 2:9; REVELATION 7:9-10.**)

Jesus' prayer in John 17, right before His betrayal and crucifixion, was an intercessory prayer to God—for Himself, His disciples, and all believers. In this prayer, Jesus declared that eternal life is knowing God and Jesus. To *know* here is not the superficial knowing of God and what He did. It means to truly learn and realize deeply who God is. When we know God, we will find our source of joy and our meaning in life. When we know God, we can recognize His voice and get a glimpse of His nature. Today, we will talk about how knowing God connects us with His heart and mission.

1 | Our God is on a mission.

“And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” **JOHN 17:3**

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” **GENESIS 1:28**

God’s creation of mankind sheds some light on His heart and mission. We were made in His image and are called to *fill the earth and subdue it* as His representatives. God’s mission is for all of creation to fully know and experience Him, as people bear His image—filling and taking dominion of the entire earth. However, because humanity sinned, humanity and the rest of creation are in a fallen state. The good thing is that God’s mission remains the same. God’s goal is to redeem humanity and creation so that we can be restored to His original purpose for us. This story of God’s mission of redemption is the overarching story of the Bible. Have you ever read the Bible in this light? How does God’s word help us understand this truth?

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2 | The Father sent Jesus on a mission.

“... As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”
JOHN 20:21

We humans cannot save ourselves from sin. In order to accomplish His mission, the Father sent His Son on a mission to redeem us. Jesus was given the greatest mission of all time.

He was born on earth to live as a human, and then died a grisly death on the cross to take our sins on Himself, though He was sinless. He then resurrected, defeated death and sin forever, and made salvation available to all. Jesus is the only way that people can be reconciled with God and be restored to their original purpose. What is the importance of knowing that Jesus is the only way?

3 | Jesus is sending us to partner in that mission.

“. . . As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

JOHN 20:21

We are participants in God’s mission. His heart is for the nations to know Him, and Jesus gave us our greatest commission: to make disciples. This could be to our family and community, and to the nations as well. Our calling as His body is to make Him known. We are not just to hear from God and know Him personally, though that’s how it begins. We are meant to partner with God in making Him known. The ultimate picture that Jesus has for the world is for redeemed people from every nation, tribe, people, and language to know and worship God (Revelation 7:9–10). How has knowing God’s heart for the nations helped you have a heart for the nations as well?

APPLICATION

- To know Jesus is to experience life in Him. What are some ways you get to know God in a deeper way?
- As we go deeper in our devotion with God, we hear Him speak and experience His wisdom. What are some things that you believe that God has spoken to you recently? What do you think is He asking you to do?
- The ultimate picture God gives us is every tribe worshiping Him. How does partnering with Him in this mission play out in your life?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His heart for the nations. Thank Him for sending His Son, Jesus, on the mission to save us.
- Ask God to continue revealing His heart to you as you talk to Him and meditate on His word this week.
- Pray for His strength and grace to wholeheartedly fulfill His call to partner with Him in the mission. Pray for clarity on what your mission field is and the grace to obey God in it.



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